



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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For immediate release
November 4, 1994

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Will Libertarian Party candidates cost the GOP control of the Senate?

WASHINGTON, DC — They may cost the Republican Party control of the U.S. Senate and several governor's seats, but Libertarian Party candidates won't put the brakes on their energetic campaigns, said the Chairman of the Libertarian Party today.

"According to news reports from around the nation, Libertarian candidates could hold the balance of power in Senate races in Michigan and Pennsylvania, and in governor's races in Texas, California, and New York," said Steve Dasbach, head of America's third largest party.

"The GOP could lose those races — and possibly control of the Senate — because of Libertarians, but Republicans have only themselves to blame. The problem is that Republicans talk the talk, but they vote for compromise, higher taxes, gun control, and more bureaucracy," said Dasbach.

"In 1994, citizens who want to cast a principled vote for smaller government know they must vote Libertarian," he said.

Dasbach discounted that danger that Libertarians may help elect more big-government Democrats. "In the short run, we're going to have to defeat some Republicans so the GOP will take the Libertarian Party and our growing constituency more seriously. But maybe they need this kind of painful lesson. Maybe then they will start voting for smaller government, instead of just talking about it."

Libertarian candidates are also expected to have an impact on governor's races in Oregon, Minnesota, Illinois, and Arizona.

There are 662 Libertarian candidates for office in 45 states, including 89 candidates for the

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U.S. House of Representatives, 17 candidates for the U.S. Senate, and 18 candidates for governor. Libertarian candidates at the federal, state, or local level will be on the ballot for 65% of American voters — more than three times as many as any other third party.

Races to watch, according to reports from around the county:

➤ **California, governor's race:** "A third-party upstart [Libertarian Richard Rider] may hold the trump card in this hotly contested race." (*The Washington Times*.)

➤ **Michigan, U.S. Senate race:** "Given the closeness of the race, [Libertarian Party candidate Jon] Coon could play spoiler in this race." (*The Detroit News*.)

➤ **New York, governor's race:** "[Robert] Schulz, the candidate of the . . . Libertarian Party, is viewed as a potential spoiler who could take votes away from George Pataki in a close race against Gov. Mario Cuomo." (*The Times Union*, Albany.)

➤ **Pennsylvania, U.S. Senate race:** "Congressman Rick Santorum [R-PA] point-blank asked me not to run for the Senate and tried every argument he could muster to get me to drop out," reported Libertarian candidate Don Ernsberger.

➤ **Texas, governor's race:** "Republican Chairman Tom Pauken . . . says Libertarian nominee Keary Ehlers should, for the good of Texas, pull out of the race. Pauken said Monday that Ehlers, an Arlington engineer, hurts Bush's chances of beating Gov. Ann Richards." (*The Houston Post*.)

The Libertarian Party's platform calls for free enterprise, free trade, private charity, individual liberty and responsibility, and a vigorous defense of the Bill of Rights. More than 125 Libertarians already hold public office.

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